

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 OES-07 EB-08 INT-05

COME-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 DLOS-09 SP-02 L-03 H-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 /084 W

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R 271320Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3523

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS NS JA

SUBJECT: SHRIMP FISHERY

1. ON JULY 26 AMBASSADOR WAS CALLED ON BY YOSHIZO KONISHI, COUNSELOR OF JAPANESE EMBASSY IN CARACAS, WHO ASKED FOR AND WAS GIVEN AN APPRECIATION OF THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN SURINAM AND THE PROSPECTS FOR THE COMING ELECTIONS.

2. KONISHI THEN CALLED IN ARITSUNE FURUKAWA OF THE JAPAN FISHERY AGENCY AND KAZUO HIRAO OF THE JAPAN OVERSEAS SHRIMP FISHERY ASSOCIATION, TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM ARISING OUT OF THE DECLARATION OF 200-MILE FISHING ZONES BY FRANCE AND GUYANA AND THE COMING SIMILAR DECLARATION BY SURINAM. THE JAPANESE NOTED THAT THE FRENCH, THROUGH THE EEC, ARE PUTTING VERY STRICT LIMITATIONS ON THE LICENSING OF FOREIGN BOATS FOR SHRIMPING IN FRENCH GUIANA WATERS,
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AND HAVE HINTED VERY BROADLY (BUT NOT MADE EXPLICIT) THAT PERMISSION TO FISH WILL MEAN HAVING TO LAND A SIGNIFICANT PORTION (PERHAPS ONE-THIRD TO TWO-THIRDS) OF THE CATCH IN FRENCH GUIANA FOR PROCESSING. THE JAPANESE, WHO ARE BASED PRINCIPALLY IN SURINAM AND GUYANA, ARE NOT INDEPENDENT OPERATORS, BUT IN EACH CASE ARE IN A JOINT VENTURE WITH THE SURINAMESE AND GUYANESE INTERESTS, WITH THE

PROCESSING OF THE CATCH BEING PART OF THE PARTNERSHIP
ARRANGEMENT. IF FRANCE TRIES TO FORCE THE JAPANESE SHIPS
TO LAND THEIR CATCH IN CAYENNE, THIS WILL ONLY SERVE TO
DISRUPT AND PROBABLY END THE JOINT VENTURES WITH SURINAM
AND GUYANA, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH WHICH JAPAN IS
TRYING TO WORK. THE JAPANESE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING THIS
MATTER WITH THE GUYANESE AND SURINAM GOVERNMENTS AND WONDER
HOW THE USG IS FARING WITH THE SAME PROBLEM?

3. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT THE USG DOES INDEED SHARE
A SIMILAR PROBLEM AS REGARDS SHRIMPING OFF FRENCH
GUIANA, BUT THE MATTER IS PART OF THE OVERALL EEC-US FISHERY
NEGOTIATIONS. THERE ARE VERY FEW AMERICAN-REGISTERED BOATS
OPERATING OUT OF SURINAM, BUT THE AMERICAN PROCESSING
FACILITY HERE, OWNED BY CASTLE AND COOK, DEPENDS PRINCIPALLY
ON BOATS OWNED AND MANNED BY KOREANS BUT FLYING THE PANAMANIAN
FLAG IN MANY CASES, AS WELL AS THE KOREAN FLAG. THE EEC
HAS MADE IT PLAIN THAT INTENDS TO NEGOTIATE, AS OF
NOW, ON THE BASIS OF THE FLAG OF THE SHIPS IN THE FISHERY
AND THE AMBASSADOR COULD SEE NO ALTERNATIVE AT THIS TIME
TO INDIVIDUAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN FLAG-COUNTRIES AND THE
EEC, ALTHOUGH IT WAS CLEARLY IN THE INTEREST OF ALL FOR
THE FISHERY EVENTUALLY TO BE CONSIDERED AS A UNIT, WITH
BRAZIL, FRANCE, SURINAM AND GUYANA MANAGING IT JOINTLY
FOR THE GREATEST YIELD. AS FOR SURINAM, THERE
HAS AS YET BEEN NO ESTABLISHMENT OF A 200-MILE ZONE,
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ALTHOUGH IT MUST BE ASSUMED THAT THIS WILL BE DONE. THERE
WAS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT SURINAM WOULD BE ARBITRARY
OR UNREASONABLE; ON THE CONTRARY, IT WOULD PROBABLY WANT
TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN THE JOINT SURINAM-JAPANESE
PROCESSING FIRM (SUJAFI) AND THE AMERICAN PROCESSING PLANT,
AND SURINAM BOATS WOULD OFFER NO COMPETITION TO OTHERS
BECAUSE (1) THERE ARE PRACTICALLY NO SURINAM SHRIMP BOATS
AND (2) SURINAMERS SEEM INTRINSICALLY OPPOSED TO BECOMING
SAILORS.
ZURHELLEN

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